

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

MAY 12, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 appropriated \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The overarching objectives of this program are to improve energy efficiency, and reducing fossil fuel and energy use, while spurring economic growth and job creation. Los Angeles County anticipates receiving approximately \$15 Million of formula funding. Grants will be administered through the U.S. Department of Energy, and proposals are due by June 25, 2009, with funding expected by Fall 2009. Awards must be spent within three years. The Department of Energy has articulated that EECBG funds should be used community-wide, not only for government-owned facilities and infrastructure. The State of California has also indicated the State Energy Program Competitive Grants will prioritize these same principles and that their grant program will likely be designed with the objective of leveraging the EECBG funds.

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
MAY 12, 2009
PAGE TWO**

While the County's previous energy-related investments have focused on retro-commissioning County facilities, which have resulted in significant environmental and economic savings, the Board of Supervisors has also sponsored numerous initiatives to spur community-based actions in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, reduce energy use, and promote sustainability. These initiatives include Green Building, Low Impact Development, and Water Conservation ordinances adopted by the Board in November 2008, the expansion of commercial and residential recycling services, the provision of low-income public transit subsidies, and the current development of a comprehensive community-based Renewable Energy Program that includes financing schemes available through AB 811.

Keeping in mind that the overarching objective of EECBG funding is to promote job creation and economic development, this funding should be used to provide residents, businesses and contractors with comprehensive educational tools, technical resources and financial incentives supporting and promoting these previously established County programs, as well as linking individuals to "green" vocational opportunities and energy industry services.

An "Environmental Service Center" approach would provide a comprehensive means for outreaching through a "one-stop shop" approach. Programmatic components could include:

- MORE -

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
MAY 12, 2009
PAGE THREE**

- **Renewable Energy Program:** The Centers would showcase resources such as energy audits, the LA County Solar Map, and a Renewable Energy Financing Program. This would also promote implementation of effective energy reduction and energy efficiency measures by building upon the County's existing partnerships with utility companies that are currently funded through the Public Goods Charge.
- **Green Building Program:** The Centers would provide educational tools and facilitate financial incentives related to the County's Green Building ordinance, through partnerships among the Departments of Regional Planning and Public Works, U.S. Green Building Council, Building Industry of America and other stakeholders.
- **Low Impact Development (LID), Water Conservation, and the Drought Tolerant Landscaping Program:** The Centers would provide educational tools and facilitate financial incentives through partnerships among the Departments of Public Health, Vector Control, Fire, and Public Works and the Metropolitan Water District, as well as with local water purveyors and water districts.
- **Recycling and Waste Diversion Program:** The Centers would provide information and tools relating to the County's recycling programs and promote waste audits, coordinated by the Department of Public Works in partnership with the Sanitation Districts.

-MORE-

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
MAY 12, 2009
PAGE FOUR**

- **Public Transit:** The Centers would promote public transit options such as TAP passes, vanpool programs, etc., through a partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
- **Green Business and Hotel Certification Program:** The Centers would work in coordination with the City of Los Angeles to expand the voluntary certification program, currently in development, that will benchmark the environmental impact of the operations of existing businesses and hotels.

The ARRA also emphasizes the need for local jurisdictions to leverage resources for the promotion of high-growth/high-demand occupations. Approximately a third of the Workforce Investment Act funding, \$11.76 Million, allocated to Los Angeles County, has been designated for specific high-growth industries, which specifically includes the "green sector". Environmental Service Centers should have direct partnerships with the WorkSource Centers, and with other vocational programs, to provide job training for energy audits, solar installations, weatherization, retro-commissioning and other emerging "green collar" opportunities. Specifically, the WorkSource Centers should provide training for auditors of the California's Energy Commission's Home Energy Rating System (HERS) that specifies a standardized criterion for conducting energy audits of facilities. Certified auditor services would then be marketed through the Environmental Service Center to perform weatherization and retro-commissioning

- MORE -

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
MAY 12, 2009
PAGE FIVE**

services that are subsidized by the EECBG funds, making the Centers vital economic development hubs that link residents and businesses to these services.

The Environmental Service Center model could be comprised of three elements: 1) the centralization of all of the County resources and services at www.lacounty.green.gov, 2) “booths in the box” at County-sponsored fairs and other community events, and 3) “brick and mortar” service centers strategically located throughout the County. While this would provide a significant resource to unincorporated residents, the EECBG proposal is expected to also serve cities with less than 35,000 residents, who were not directly funded through formula funds. “Brick and mortar” centers should utilize and leverage existing County information centers or partnerships with local centers that provide similar services.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer in coordination the Internal Services Department, and in consultation with the aforementioned County Departments, develop an Environmental Service Center strategy that includes the programmatic components highlighted above, for inclusion in the EECBG application and report back to the Board by June 23, 2009 with their proposal. The proposal shall include a work plan describing the following items:

1. Technical and programmatic services.

-MORE-

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
MAY 12, 2009
PAGE SIX**

2. Possible locations geographically distributed throughout the County, ideally co-located or in close proximity to existing Department of Regional Planning and Building and Safety Field Offices.
3. Cost estimates incorporating other potential funding streams.
4. Opportunities for partnership with outside organizations (including utilities, local jurisdictions, educational institutions, and workforce-training centers),
5. Roles and responsibilities of the Departments identified above.
6. Staffing, management and implementation recommendations.
7. Recommendations on how to sustain the program after the initial grant funding is exhausted.

###